

REMARKS

Reconsideration and further examination of the subject patent application in light of the present Amendment and Remarks is respectfully requested.

Introductory Remarks Regarding The Claims

Claims 1-27 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-17 are allowed, claims 18-24 stand rejected, and claims 25-27 are objected to.

Claims Objected To Which Would Be Allowable If Rewritten

The Examiner states that claims 25-27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended dependent claim 25 to include the limitations of corresponding independent claim 18, as suggested by the Examiner. Additionally, the dependent claims originally depending from rejected independent claim 18 have been amended to depend from the presently amended claim 25, which is now written in independent form and believed to now be allowable. Applicant submits that dependent claims are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim.

Closing Remarks

Applicant notes the Examiner's statement that claims 1-17 are allowable over the art of record. For the foregoing reasons, applicant submits that the subject application is in condition for allowance and earnestly solicits an early Notice of Allowance. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the below-listed number.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee which may be required for this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.18, including but not limited to the issue fee, or credit

- any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-0920. Should no proper amount be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 23-0920.

Respectfully submitted,

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